

Beaver County Emergency Services

Quarterly Newsletter - Volume 4, Issue 3

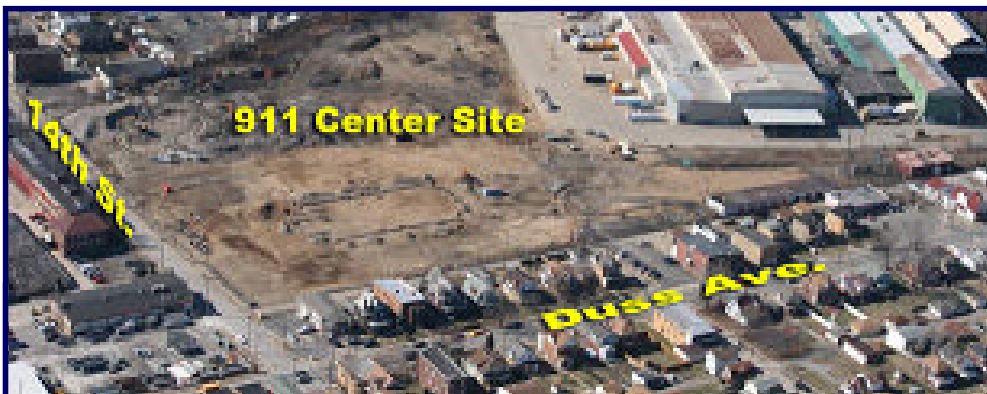
NEW 9-1-1 CENTER IS PROGRESSING

Beaver County's new Emergency Services Center has sprung from the ground in Ambridge Borough along with so many spring flowers. Construction began in March, with steel, block, and brick quickly taking the shape of the state-of-the-art 9-1-1 and Emergency Operations Center for which county officials have been planning for nearly three years.

Construction is currently on schedule, with an estimated completion date in January, 2010.

SUMMER, 2009

- *New Building Progress*
- *Ed Barth's Retirement*
- *Weather Safety Programs*
- *EMS & Fire Services Updates*
- *BCESC News & Notes*
- *Events Calendar*



9-1-1 telecommunicator Nicholas Sheleheda has established a web-site to track building progress. For more information and many more construction photos, go to:
www.beavercounty911.com.



WHAT, ED BARTH RETIRED?!?!?!?

As of the 1st of April, Ed Barth, one of Beaver County Emergency Services' liaisons from the Beaver Valley Power Station's Emergency Response group, retired after nearly 40 years of service with FirstEnergy. Ed had been in his Emergency Response role for approximately 8 years, working primarily offsite with the Emergency Services center on planning and training. Bill Mahan & Ed Barth (Either & Or) deserve a good deal of credit for the high success rate of the federally evaluated nuclear exercises the county has completed over the last several years. Among their many duties, the duo has been responsible for conducting training with municipal EOCs, and their work has helped to build the strong relationships the county enjoys today with its municipal volunteers.

Always pleasant and quick with a witty comeback, Ed was very well liked by his colleagues, and there was a palpable feeling of loss and emptiness in the office after he announced his plans to retire. Nevertheless, none begrudge him a single moment of retirement enjoyment - just look at how well the Penguins are doing now that Ed can devote more time to cheering on his favorite team!

Congratulations, Ed! We miss you!



Clockwise from top left:

Ed cuts his Penguin cake at his "surprise" retirement lunch; the famous duo "Either / Or" breaks up; one last shot together: Kevin Joy, Ed Barth, Wes Hill, & Bill Mahan pose in front of the center.

WEATHER PROGRAMS THROUGH THE NWS By Kevin Whipple

On March 26, 2009, Beaver County Emergency Services hosted its annual SKYWARN™ training class at the Hazardous Materials training facility. We had twenty five participants attend, and Rich Kane, the Warning Meteorologist for the National Weather Service's Moon Township office, was again this year's instructor.

For those who aren't familiar with SKYWARN™, here's a brief overview:

SKYWARN™ is a network of trained severe weather spotters who report directly to the National Weather Service. Year after year, reports from SKYWARN™ observers have assisted the National Weather Service in issuing timely warnings based on real-time reports throughout our 36 County Warning Area covering parts of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, and Maryland.

The National Weather Service's primary mission is to issue warnings to protect life and property. The ground truth reports from SKYWARN™ spotters are a vital link in using advanced radar data and meteorological skills to carry out the mission. Their observations also provide information in compiling documentation of severe weather events and verification of warnings. These reports become part of the United States Storm Data publication, which is used by researchers and also provides climatological data on a wide variety of unusual weather phenomenon, including statistics on death, injuries, and property and crop damage.

Please watch for information on next year's training, which will be held sometime in February or March of 2010.

"Skywarn® and the Skywarn® logo are registered trademarks of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, used with permission."



I am currently working on getting Beaver County classified as a **StormReady®** county through the National Weather Service. We live in the most severe weather-prone country on earth. According to the NWS, each year, Americans cope with an average of 10,000 thunderstorms, 5,000 floods, 1,000 tornadoes, and an average of 2 land falling deadly hurricanes. This is not even to mention winter storms, intense summer heat, high winds, and wild fires, among other types of severe weather.

Also according to the National Weather Service, some 90% of all presidential declared disasters are weather related, leading to around 500 deaths per year and nearly \$14 billion in damage. **StormReady®**, a program started in 1999 in Tulsa, OK, helps arm America's communities with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property, before and during the event. **StormReady®** helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen local safety programs.

StormReady® communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through advanced planning, education and awareness. No community is storm proof, but **StormReady®** can help communities save lives. To be classified as **StormReady®**, communities must fulfill a number of guidelines, dependent on population size, and including, but not limited to, establishing weather monitoring & warning measures and training spotters.

For more information on weather safety programs, please visit the National Weather Service at:
<http://www.weather.gov/safety.php>

Kevin Whipple can be reached at kwhipple@beavercountypa.gov.



EMS Week

National EMS week was May 17th – 23rd. Several events took place to honor those who serve in the EMS field and to increase the recognition of EMS and what they really do. Our regional EMS Council (EMSI) started a campaign to promote EMS with the help of a website, www.doUrealize.com. This site provides opportunities for the public to learn more about what we do as EMS providers, visitors were also able to go on and leave thank you notes to their local EMS providers. As we all know, EMS is often left out of the “public safety” field; if we don’t promote our profession, no one else will.

NIMS ICS 300

Several EMS leaders along with fire chiefs, police chiefs, EMA staff and municipal managers participated in the ICS 300 class that was held in May at the Emergency Services Hazmat garage. This is a 24 hour class that prepares emergency responders to be trained at the “command level” and is recommended for Middle Management, Strike Team Leaders, Division Supervisors, EOC Staff, etc. ICS 300 consisted of a series of scenarios that expanded as the class went on. Students were challenged to organize a command structure based on the needs of the incident. ICS 300 and 400 courses are being offered in the future. For more information, see the News & Notes section and the Events Calendar in this newsletter.

Swine Anyone?

During the last couple weeks of April, our e-mail inboxes were bombarded with swine stuff. We didn’t just blow off the potential for a “pandemic”, but, at the same time, we didn’t distribute the thousands of masks we have stockpiled to all of our responders. What we did do was to review our plans and make sure we had what was needed in case there was a pandemic problem that affected Beaver County. We reviewed our POD (Point of Dispensing), EMS, COOP (Continuity of Operations) and 911 Center plans. We made sure that we have PPE for all of our responders and the potential to get more should the need arise. We were also in contact with our hospital liaison, the PA Department of Health, PEMA, and our neighboring counties via daily conference calls.

Regarding EMS readiness for a possible pandemic, **EMS agencies should consistently practice basic infection control procedures including vehicle/equipment decontamination, hand hygiene, cough and respiratory hygiene, and proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), regardless of the likelihood of an influenza pandemic.** EMS agencies should adopt day-to-day infection control and decontamination procedures consistent with the most recent CDC and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidance.

SAFETY

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In each issue, I try to remind everyone about safety; I’m not telling you something you don’t already know: that **personal safety is everyone’s priority**. Recently, there have been some concerns on calls that were brought to my attention, and I have sent a letter out to police departments asking that they respond to EMS calls to make sure

Continued on next page...

EMS UPDATES, CONT.

our crews are safe. However, we all realize that the police cannot be on every call. This is when your experience and sense as an EMS provider comes into play. If you are responding to a call that is known to you as a “trouble” spot, please request, through 911 dispatch, that the police respond. Then, don’t go into the area until the police advise. One feature of our CAD system is that we can look back on prior calls that have occurred at a certain address, so if you think you may have had a problem call at a certain address, ask the dispatcher to check the history of the address for problems. On the same lines, our dispatchers are usually good at looking at the history before you get on scene to see if there have been problems at the address, and they will relay that information to you.

If you are on scene and are having problems, please try to specify what is going on when you call for help over the radio. The responding police department is going to want to know why they are needed. Try to make the call for help over the radio in case someone is nearby and hears you; calling over your cell phone should be a last resort. And if the radio fails, you can always pick up the home phone and dial 911 for help. **At the end of the day, we all want to go home to our family and whatever way we can help you do that, we will.**

Other personal safety notes:

- Summer is quickly approaching; the numbers of incidents of emergencies around water will increase. Remember to wear PFD’s (personal floatation devices) when around water and know your capabilities.
- Remember to wear your ANSI II or III reflective vests while on roadway incidents. When on scene, try to use your vehicle as a safety barrier while you are working on a patient.
- Tips for heat: Stay hydrated and in a cool place; i.e.: when on fire scene stand-by’s, sometimes we get focused on patients or potential patients and forget about ourselves.

EMS Dates to Note

July 9 th	MMRS	1:00 pm
August 6 th	EMS Providers	10:00am
August 13 th – 15 th	PA EMS Conference	

Eric Brewer can be reached at ebrewer@county.beaver.pa.us

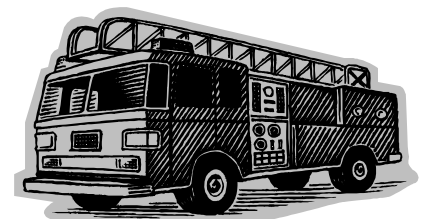
Dave Trzcianka is continuing to meet with the county’s Fire Chiefs in order to review the **new CAD system**.

Chiefs who have not yet met with Dave are asked to email him at dtrzcianka@beavercountypa.gov to set up a date and time.

He is available almost every Wednesday from 7 am to 5 pm. If Wednesdays don’t work, Dave will also make arrangements to meet at a time that is more convenient for the chief.

Dave hopes to have all of his meetings done as soon as possible so that the new system is ready prior to the move to the new building.

FIRE SERVICES UPDATES



NEWS & NOTES

- April 12th - 18th, 2009 was **National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week**. In honor of this week, Commissioner Charlie Camp, Chairman Commissioner Tony Amadio, and Commissioner Joe Spanik presented a County Proclamation to Beaver County 9-1-1 Dispatch Crew Chiefs, Brent Peacock and Tina Hrubovcak, who accepted it on behalf of their fellow dispatchers.
- Congratulations are due to Justin Magnifico who was promoted to a **full time dispatch position** in April.



- **Beaver County's Annual Police Memorial** was held on May 15th, with several Emergency Services staff members receiving service awards. From left to right, Eric Brewer (for tactical dispatching), Victor Spinelli (for technical equipment support), Randy Dawson (for tactical dispatching), Gene Miketa (for technical equipment support), Skip Mattern (for technical equipment support), & Dave Trzcianka, not pictured (for tactical dispatching) all received plaques honoring them for their specific roles in support of the County's Emergency Services Unit (or ESU team).
- In late April and early May, county officials participated in daily conference calls with their state partners at the Department of Health and PEMA regarding **H1N1 Influenza, or Swine Flu**. At time of publication, there was one probable case of H1N1 in Beaver County. Confirmed cases have been found across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Common sense personal hygiene (wash your hands often, cough in the crook of your arm, etc.) is urged by health officials who continue to monitor the progression of this virus. For the latest information on H1N1 Influenza, please refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/ and the PA Department of Health, www.health.state.pa.us.
- Emergency Services has been hosting **ICS 300 & 400 NIMS training** for county and municipal command staff. Approximately 40 people completed the 24 hour ICS 300 training in early May, with most opting to continue their certification with the 16 hour ICS 400 course being offered on June 29 & July 6. ICS 300 courses have also been scheduled for June 25, July 2, & July 9 (Thursdays) and August 8, 15, & 29 (Saturdays), for those who missed the May offering. Another ICS 400 class will be held on September 26 & October 3 (Saturdays). Scheduled courses are announced primarily through email. To reserve a seat in any of these sessions, or if you are not receiving email announcements from the county and would like to, please contact Sky at smu@beavercountypa.gov or at 724-775-1700. For more information on NIMS training, please follow this link: www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/NIMSTrainingCourses.shtml#item1
- **Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator quarterly trainings** were held on March 31 & May 5. Discussion topics included the Title 35 rewrite, KEMA membership, Coordinator certification, VOAD groups, Right to Know legislation, Knowledge Center updates, Emergency Operations Center staffing, ESFs (Emergency Support Functions), & the H1N1 virus. Additional trainings are scheduled for **September 1 and October 20**. Elected officials are invited to attend the September training along with their EMA Coordinators and participate in a review of legislation relating to emergency management at the local level. Coordinators may choose to attend one of the two sessions scheduled for each day, 1 - 3 pm or 6 - 8 pm, at the Emergency Services center. Coordinators and/or their assistants are encouraged to attend each quarter. Please call 724-775-1700 to reserve at seat.
- The Emergency Services Center continues to hold monthly **School Violence and Transportation Tabletop Exercises** in conjunction with local police, fire, EMS, and EMA officials. For more information on exercises and training available through the ESC, please contact Victor Spinelli at 724-775-1700.

JUNE 2009

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- **3rd:** Hazmat Team 700 Training, 6:30 pm, Hazmat Garage
- **11th:** Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association Meeting, 7:30 pm
- **14th:** United Valley REACT, 6 pm
- **15th:** Flag Day Holiday Observed, County Offices Closed
- **17th:** Chiefs of Police Meeting, Noon, Jeffries Landing
- **17th:** Hazmat Team 700 Training, 6:30 pm, Hazmat Garage
- **18th:** Hazmat Refresher Training for Law Enforcement, 1 pm, Hazmat Garage
- **22nd - 26th:** Camp Deputy, Brady's Run Park
- **24th:** BVPS' Quarterly Meetings, Support Cos 10 am, Risk Cos 1 pm
- **25th:** ICS 300 Training, 8 am - 4 pm, Hazmat Garage (1st of 3 days)
- **29th:** ICS 400 Training, 8 am - 4 pm, Hazmat Garage (1st of 2 days)
- **30th:** Chippewa Transportation Tabletop, 10 am - Noon

JULY 2009

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- **2nd:** ICS 300 Training, 8 am - 4 pm, Hazmat Garage (2nd of 3 days)
- **3rd:** Independence Day Holiday, County Offices Closed
- **4th:** Independence Day
- **6th:** ICS 400 Training, 8 am - 4 pm, Hazmat Garage (2nd of 2 days)
- **9th:** ICS 300 Training, 8 am - 4 pm, Hazmat Garage (3rd of 3 days)
- **9th:** Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association Meeting, 7:30 pm
- **19th:** United Valley REACT, 6 pm

AUGUST 2009

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30	31					

- **4th - 5th:** BVPS Offsite Agency Training & Quarterly Meetings, Location TBD
- **6th:** EMS Providers Meeting, 10 am
- **8th:** ICS 300 Training, 8 am - 4 pm, Hazmat Garage (1st of 3 days)
- **9th:** United Valley REACT, 6 pm
- **12th:** Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting, 2:30 pm
- **15th:** ICS 300 Training, 8 am - 4 pm, Hazmat Garage (2nd of 3 days)
- **19th:** Hazmat Team 700 Training, 6:30 pm, Hazmat Garage
- **26th:** Public Safety Commission Meeting, 7:30 pm
- **29th:** ICS 300 Training, 8 am - 4 pm, Hazmat Garage (3rd of 3 days)

ALL EVENTS LOCATED AT THE BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



EMERGENCY SERVICES

250 East End Avenue
Beaver, PA 15009
724-775-1700

BEAVER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TONY AMADIO, CHAIRMAN
JOE SPANIK
CHARLES A. CAMP

EMERGENCY SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION
WESLEY W. HILL, DIRECTOR
KEVIN J. JOY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Beaver County Courthouse • 810 Third Street • Beaver, PA 15009
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Want to contribute?
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The Beaver County Emergency Services Newsletter is created and published by the Beaver County Emergency Services Center (BCESC).

The BCESC is a division of Beaver County government, under the authority of the Beaver County Board of Commissioners. The BCESC manages the county's 9-1-1 dispatch operations center and also serves as the county's Emergency Management office, working under the direction of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) on emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery. The BCESC is also the home of the county's Hazmat Team 700, the Public Safety Commission, the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC), and is the contact point for many other public safety organizations, including EMS, Fire, Police, and Municipal EMA services.

The BCESC works in conjunction with a number of county and offsite agencies to provide comprehensive public safety guidance and emergency support to the residents and businesses of Beaver County.

Beaver County Emergency Services
250 East End Avenue
Beaver, PA 15009

